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TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	10/16/02	
	Filing Date	02/06/2002	
	First Named Inventor	Jerrold Franklin	
	Group Art Unit	2833	
	Examiner Name		
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ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
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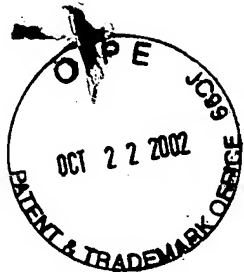
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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Jerrold Franklin *et al.*
Application No. 10/068,154
Filed: February 6, 2002
For: Compliant Contacts for Fuel Cell Use

Date: October 16, 2002
Group Art Unit 2833

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Petition to Make Special and § 1.102 Statement of Counsel


Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington D.C. 20231

Dear Sir or Madam:

The applicants respectfully submit this petition to make special under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102 and MPEP § 708.02 (V) & (VI). The applicants had previously requested that the present application be made special, through their February 6, 2002 patent application cover letter. However, since that request has not been acted upon, applicants respectfully resubmit their request.

The present application relates to fuel cells, which are very efficient energy devices that avoid the creation of harmful emissions. As set forth on page 1 of the specification for the present application, fuel cells use hydrogen (the most abundant element on earth) as a fuel, and oxygen, usually from the air, as an oxidant to create electricity through a chemical conversion process, without combustion and without harmful emissions. (The chief byproduct of fuel cells is water.) Further general information about fuel cells is provided in the attached article, attached hereto as Exhibit A.

The invention covered by the present application will "materially enhance the quality of the environment of mankind" by helping to improve air quality, and is therefore eligible for special status under MPEP 708.02(V). More particularly, the present invention will "improv[e] fuel cell operation by providing substantially uniform internal load distribution to effect uniform electrical contact across the conductive surface." Spec. 4: 6-7. (The specification and drawings of the present application are incorporated by reference herein). The present invention will therefore improve the



efficiency of fuel cell operation, and make fuel cells more robust and therefore easier to bring to market. Because they produce no harmful emissions, increased use of fuel cells will improve air quality.

Likewise, the present application is eligible for special status under MPEP 708.02(VI) as an energy-saving device. Since fuel cells rely on abundant hydrogen, not scarce fossil fuels, they can help to conserve our nation's energy resources. *See Spec. 1: 16 -18.*

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the present application should be accorded special status under either MPEP § 708.02 (V) or (VI).

Dated: October 16, 2002

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